Message Text

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 0301
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EFIN, EAGR, SA
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD):
SITE AND PRESIDENCY

1. U.S. POSITION ON SITE AND PRESIDENCY OF IFAD COVERED JANUARY 12 WITH ABDULLAH ALIREZA, DEPUTY MINISTER MFA FOR ECON AFFAIRS. ALIREZA (WHO APPARENTLY HAD NOT BEEN BRIEFED BY STAFF MEMBER WITH WHOM WE SPOKE DURING ALIREZA'S ABSENCE) DID NOT CLARIFY OPEC (GROUP II) POSITION FOR US. HE ONLY ASKED WHY U.S. COULD NOT LET BOTH SITE AND PRESI-DENCY GO TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (IN WHICH CATEGORY HE INSISTED ON PUTTING GROUP II MEMBERS); FUND COULD STILL BE RUN EFFECTIVELY ON JOINT BASIS. EMBOFF STRESSED STRONG USG VIEW THAT FUND BE COMPLETELY JOINT SHARED OPERATION BETWEEN INDUSTRIALIZED AND OIL PRDUCER DONORS, AND THAT THAT INCLUDED SHARING SITE AND PRESIDENCY, U.S. CONGRESS AND MOST OTHER OECD MEMBERS COULD NOT SUPPORT FUND OTHERWISE ESTABLISHED. WE WERE UNCLEAR WHAT GROUP II POSITION WAS - DID IT WANT PRESIDENCY, SITE, OR BOTH? LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBOFF NOTED THAT OECD MEMBERS WOULD PROBABLY BE UNABLE TO TAKE DECISION ON SITE AND PRESIDENCY BEFORE OPEC POSITION CLEARER. ALIREZA SUPPORTED NEITHER SUDAYRI'S CANDIDACY NOR TEHRAN AS SITE AND DID NOT CLARIFY GROUP II POSITION.

2. COMMENT. ALIREZA, WHO HAS NEVER BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC

ABOUT IFAD, MAY BE REFLECTING A RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF SAG TO GO TO THE MAT WITH IRANIANS AT THIS TIME OVER CHOICE BETWEEN GROUP II CONDIDATES FOR SITE OR PRESIDENCY.

3. WE HAVE RECEIVED COPY OF CIRCULAR MFA NOTE SUPPORTING SUDAYRI'S CANDIDACY. PERTINENT BIO INFORMATION FOLLOWS: BORN 1936, BA COLORADO U, MA AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY, U ARIZONA. EMPLOYED BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE; AT FAO SINCE 1972. PORTER

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